United Nations CRC/C/LAO/Q/3-6/Add.1

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Distr.: General
22 June 2018

English only

**Committee on the Rights of the Child**
**Seventy-ninth session**
17 September–5 October 2018
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
**Consideration of reports of States parties**

# List of issues in relation to the combined third to sixth periodic reports of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

**Addendum**

## Replies of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the list of issues*, **

[Date received: 14 June 2018]

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.
** The annexes to the present report are on file with the Secretariat and are available for consultation. They may also be accessed from the web page of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

GE.18-10248(E)
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1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is pleased to submit its written replies to the List of Issues (CRC/C/LAO/Q/3-6) and It also contains information relevant to the implementation of the Optional Protocols during the period between 2015–2016 as a follow-up to the relevant concluding observations from the initial reports (CRC/C/OPAC/LAO/CO/1 & CRC/C/OPSC/LAO/CO/1) as annex 1–2. Lao PDR also expresses its appreciation for the opportunity to dialogue with the Committee in September 2018.

# Part I

## I. Implementation of laws and policies

2. Concrete steps have been taken to ensure the full implementation of various laws and national policies. Following adoption, laws are disseminated with instructions that they be implemented throughout the country. Monitoring mechanisms have been created to follow progress quarterly, bi-annually and yearly, in accordance with the mandate and responsibility of the relevant sectors, to ensure supervision of their implementation, the recruitment of personnel or the creation of various committees concerned with implementation.

3. The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) supports grants delivered to district administrations through the District Development Fund (DDF). The DDF provides block grants for capital investment projects and other public delivery interventions and the funds are used to strengthen staff at local levels. As a UNCDF grant, there is a specific monitoring mechanism for the planning, budgeting and financial management of this fund. The DDF primarily supports Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 on reducing poverty and SDG 17 on unlocking public and private finance to support local economic development. There is no specific child protection component to the fund.

## II. National Commission of Women, Mothers and Children

4. The merger of the National Commission for Mothers and Children (NCMC) and the National Commission for the Advancement of Women (NCAW) has strengthened the national machinery for the protection of the children due to the person's responsibility for the two commissions in line ministries and local levels are the same persons. The National Commission for the Advancement of Women and Mothers-Children (NCAW-MC) has a clearly defined mandate as set out in the Decree on the organization and activities of the NCAW-MC, No. 110/PO, dated 29 March 2017. The NCAW-MC has a dedicated staff and a reporting system. The Government has allocated a budget for the NCAW-MC, as well as a budget for implementation in other relevant sectors. However, the budget from the Government remains limited.

5. In accordance with the Decree on the organization and activities of the NCAW-MC, village chiefs are authorized to appoint presidents of the Village Women Union to act as coordinators with the relevant units and organizations within the village and to supervise the implementation of the plan of action to advance the rights and interests of the child. Coordination between NCAW-MC and the local CAW-MC is done directly between the women union at each level. The challenge is the provision of a budget and human resources at local level.

## III. Child Protection Networks and Child Mediation Committee

6. Child Protection Networks[1] (CPN) and Child Mediation Committee[2] (CMC) at village level are technically supported through periodic trainings. There is no budget

[1] Village Child Protection Networks are composed of village chief/deputy chief of village, social-cultural units, head of village public security, president of village elderly, secretary of village youth.

provided to these committees as they are working on a voluntary basis as the focal point for the protection and assistance of children at district level.

7. The role of the CPN is to build capacity of communities to identify children that are at risk and refer them to appropriate support services either within or outside the community. Although the CPN conduct important awareness raising activities as well as early interventions, they are not mandated to receive or investigate complaints, on or on behalf of children.

8. The CMC are also not mandated to receive or investigate complaints, on or on behalf of children. Instead they assist with civil or criminal acts involving children where there is precise, clear evidence of the offence, the child has admitted to the offence and where the maximum punishment would be no more than three years. The CMC warns and educates children in conflict with the law, mediates civil and criminal cases involving children, follows-up on cases, encourages payment of compensation, and follows-up on child offenders.

## IV. Birth Registration

9. The Government is working to implement the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Strategy and corresponding Action Plan. In May 2017, the Prime Minister issued the Decree on the Endorsement and Enforcement of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Strategy (2016–2025).

10. The Government has amended the 2009 Law on Family Registration, to clearly define the mandate and responsibility of each sector under the CRVS. Additional laws and sub laws (decrees, regulations, etc.) have already been revised or are currently undergoing revision, in order to standardize the notification, registration and certification processes. The Ministry of Home Affairs, in coordination with relevant sectors, is primarily responsible for implementing the CRVS. The registration and issuing of births and deaths in remote areas will be carried out by the staff of the home affairs sector.

11. The CRVS aims to ensure universal and effective access to civil registration of births, deaths, and other vital events and to provide all individuals with legal documentation of civil registration of births, deaths and other vital events. The CRVS also aims to collect, produce and disseminate accurate, complete, and timely vital statistics based on a well-functioning, centralized civil information management system. The first priority of the CRVS is to improve the legal and regulatory environment to enable a well-functioning system and the second priority tackles public service delivery in order to ensure universal coverage of civil registration and certification for all people without discrimination, including those living in rural remote areas. The third priority deals with human resources and staffing whereby capacity building will be provided for Ministry of Home Affairs staff, registrars, and health workers on the use of certification forms.

12. The Ministry of Home Affairs is implementing pilot projects in three provinces (Vientiane Capital, Champasak and Luangphrabang) with 5 billion kip in funding.

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directors of elementary / secondary schools, village volunteered doctors, child representatives (lower upper secondary students), committee for protection and assistance of children at district level consists of deputy head of district, chief of cabinet office, deputy head of district education, head of district public security headquarter, deputy head of justice district office, deputy president of district women union, deputy head of district education office, deputy head of district finance office, deputy head of district planning office, deputy head of district information, culture and tourism office, deputy secretary of district youth, deputy president of district Lao front for national construction.

[2] Village Child Mediation Committee are composed of four members who are selected by the villagers. The Chairperson must be a representative of the Lao Front for National Construction and other members may include representatives from the Women's Union, the Youth Union and veterans. Members of the CMC must be trusted by the community, respect the rights and interests of children, be trained on juvenile justice, understand children's mediation and be able to educate children in conflict with the law.

## V. Budget Allocations

13. The Government has taken measures to increase budget allocations to the social protection sectors and child related programs. A target budget allocation from the Governmental budget was set in the education and health sectors. However, in practice, the target budget allocations have not been met due to the limitations of the Governmental budget.

14. The overall objective of the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2016–2020) includes significantly reducing the poverty of the people with one key outcome focused on the reduction of poverty in all ethnic groups and access to quality education and health services through for all ethnic groups and both genders. The Education and Sports Sector Plan (2016–2020) vision is for the Lao population to equally and equitably have access to quality education. The Health Development Plan (2016–2020) and the Health Reform Strategy, Phase II (2015–2025) of the Ministry of Public Health aim to improve access to basic health services for all with a focus providing access to health services free of charge to those living in remote areas (Universal Health Coverage). (Budget allocations for children in Education and Health sectors please see the table 1 and 2).

15. At present, funding from development partners, including Official Development Assistance (ODA), is very important in order to meet the demand for development projects, particularly in the social sectors. The Government is trying to mobilize additional funding by encouraging investment from private domestic and foreign sectors. The revised Law on Investment (2016) creates a favorable investment climate for investors to conduct their business operations in a convenient, expeditious, transparent, fair and lawful manner. With the support of the Asian Development Bank, the Government has also been working on developing public private partnerships.

## VI. Vulnerable Groups

16. Solidarity and equality between ethnic groups is an essential strategy in the Lao state-party policy as outlined in Article 8 of the revised Constitution (2015). A Decree on ethnicity is being developed which defines policies related to ethnicity to ensure the implementation of the principles of solidarity and equality. An Ethnic Development Strategy has been developed by the home affairs sector and the Ministry of Home Affairs is drafting a national strategy related to ethnic issues as a reference for relevant sectors to comply with the principles of solidarity and equality. Due to a lack of funding, the development of the strategy has been delayed.

17. In order to implement a policy for solidarity and equality amongst ethnic groups effectively, the following principles set in the training manual basic knowledge for state management for ethnic group and religious as followed:

(a) Equality rights between ethnic groups must be respected. No ethnic group is considered higher or more important than another;

(b) Each ethnic group must respect each other, trust each other and be frank with each other, and not discriminate;

(c) Each ethnic group must consolidate as a single family, must eliminate local thought, narrow mindedness, looking down on others, over ambitious thinking, mutual thought to treat other as inferior and combat behavior of bad people who are willing to destroy and separate our ethnic solidarity;

(d) Each ethnic group must be mainly focused on earning a living in order to eliminate poverty, make the family wealthy and country well off. We must increase assistance, spirit and work together. As some ethnic have a more advanced development status, they must help those ethnic groups that are still undeveloped. On the other hand, ethnic groups which are still undeveloped must be patient to upgrade to the level of more developed ethnic groups.

18. A number of measures have been taken to overcome barriers limiting access to basic services for children in vulnerable groups, particularly children from ethnic groups, children with disabilities and children living in remote areas:

1. Go for grassroots building, educate ethnic people comprehensive content and method in order to be suitable with each target;

2. Having known who are main actor that plays important role in gathering solidarity and understood ethnic culture;

3. Conducting plan of action method democratically, pay attention to each person in all aspect equally and everyone has a chance to participate;

4. Build economic and culture-social infrastructure throughout remote areas;

5. Enhance coordination amongst relevant sectors harmoniously.

19. In order to implement Article 8 of the Constitution, the health sector disseminates and publishes information on health in the media in ethnic languages. There is access to medical services every 5 kilometers and there are mobile units to reach people in remote areas. In the education sector, every village should have a location which provides educational services. In remote areas, teachers are trained at the local level or informal education is provided. There are also mobile education service units to reach those in remote areas.

## VII. Violence against Children

20. In accordance with Prime Minister's Decree, No. 309/PO, dated 14 November 2013, measures have been taken to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and children. The Decree is the reference point for work by the National Commission for Mother and Children throughout the country. Gender equality is being integrated into all priority actions to address violence against children.

21. In line with the National Plan of Action on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and Violence against Children, the Government developed a framework for ending violence against children. The first priority area is to enhance the enabling environment by implementing and enforcing laws and policies that protect children from violence; establishing systematic national data collection and research; strengthening the capacity of all those who work with and for children; and enhancing management and coordination in child protection. The second priority area is to prevent violence against children by changing attitudes and behaviors and promoting respect and non-violence; supporting parents, caregivers and families; empowering children to protect themselves. The third priority area is to respond to violence against children by providing referral and access to appropriate support services, bring perpetrators to justice, and prevent re-offending.

22. The multi-sectoral response recognizes that violence against children cannot be addressed through the actions of any one sector alone. Priority actions include developing communication materials to assist in understanding and implementing new and existing laws and policies that protect children from violence among the justice, social welfare, health, education actors and establishing an Information Management System across the social welfare, education, health, police and legal sectors to collect disaggregated data on violence against children; modeling fixed site and mobile/outreach services in selected provinces with clear linkages across the child welfare, child justice, health and education systems to ensure early identification and timely referral to appropriate and confidential counselling and support services; strengthening the capacity of child protection service providers, justice professionals, social workers and health care workers to identify, refer and assist children at risk of or experiencing violence, including through individual case management, counseling and psychosocial support.

23. In the health sector, priority actions include building the capacity of health care providers to respond to child sexual abuse as well as physical and emotional violence through pre-service and in-service training and as a standard part of pediatric and child

health care; ensuring clear and simple guidelines for the identification, treatment, care, follow-up and prevention of violence against children within the health sector.

24. In the justice sector, priority actions building capacity among law enforcement agencies on the risks children face from violence, training them in the interpretation and enforcement of existing national legislation protecting children from violence, and teaching them how to gather evidence in criminal cases, ensuring that all perpetrators of violence against children are brought to justice and held accountable through appropriate criminal, civil and administrative proceedings and sanctions.

25. Various support services are available for child victims in Lao PDR. Consultation services include the telephone hotline of Lao Women Union 1362 (calls are free of charge) and the telephone hotline of Anti-trafficking Committee 1300 (calls are free of charge). In addition there are victim assistance centers such as the Counselling and Protection Center for Mothers and Children, the shelter of Lao Women Union, and the Friendship Shelter (Peuan Mit Shelter) which assist street children and children affected from violence. Dream Creation shelter provides assistance to children affected from trafficking in persons including those affected from violence in Champasak province and the Sengsavang shelter provides assistance to children affected from trafficking in persons, including those affected from violence, in Savannakhet province.

## VIII. Corporal Punishment

26. The Law on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Children aims to eliminate all forms of violence against women and children in all settings. Forms of violence include violence by a member of the family (Article 9) and violence by other people (Article 10). Physical violence (Article 13) is prohibited and is defined as an intentional act, such as abuse, torture, hitting, kicking, pushing, or throwing a child that causes injuries, bruises or no sign of the use of violence such as mental health problems, disability or death.

27. Awareness raising on preventing and combatting violence is one of the most important elements of the Law (Article 19) in order to make the public aware of and understand the issue of violence against women and children. Awareness raising is aimed at changing behaviors and eliminating cultural and customary beliefs and attitudes through a variety of different forms and methods such as integration into the educational curriculum.

28. An individual, legal entity or organization that has committed violence against a child within the family that does not cause much harm and is a first offense, shall be warned and re-educated with a record (Article 76). A public servant or government official who has committed violence against a child and where such behavior is not a criminal offense shall receive a disciplinary measure such as being blamed, warned, suspended, dismissed from his or her position or transferred to another lower position, or dismissed from public service (Article 77). Civil measures such as compensation for damages may imposed on an individual, legal entity or organization that has committed violence against a child causing physical, health, life or property harm (Article 78). Any individual who has committed violence against a child as defined as a criminal offense will have legal proceedings taken against them and punished as stipulated in the Criminal Law (Article 79).

29. The draft Penal Code (adopted by the National Assembly in April 2017 but not yet promulgated) includes an article on corporal punishment which states that any person who applies corporal or mental punishment to a child by kicking, beating, tying, detaining, fasting, forcing to work exceeding the limit, or engaging in sexual abuse shall be punished from one year to five years of imprisonment and shall be fined not exceeding 15.000.000 Kip (Article 263).

## IX. Alternative care of children

30. Under the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Children, Child Protection Networks (CPN) were to be established to monitor children who have been

neglected or taken advantage of; to collect data and statistics relating to children in need of special protection; to provide counseling and recommendations to children in need of special protection; and to facilitate and collaborate with relevant sectors concerning the protection and assistance of children. Currently, there are Child Protection Networks (CPN) in 14 provinces, 1 capital city, 85 districts and 883 villages.

31. CPNs have been trained to provide basic care services to children without parental care such as the provision of counseling and basic assistance. The CPN also acts as the central point for coordination with relevant sectors in order to place children in educational or care shelters, which are used as a measure of last resort.

32. In 2017, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, in cooperation with UNICEF, collected data and information in order to assess the situation of the children without parental care. The rapid assessment was intended to give vital information about how the child and family welfare system can provide support and assistance to prevent, identify and respond to situations where children are separated from their families for residential care. The result of the assessment consists of a series of recommendations to develop and define the various components, mandates and responsibilities for a professional social work system for children and their families, especially with regards to informal care. The recommendations would also assist in encouraging parents and relatives to care for their children by complying with the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Children and the Adoption Decree. The Government is also providing assistance and services in accordance with the Decree on social work.

33. The Government intends to develop guidelines that are responsive and appropriate to the Lao PDR context to protect children that are not in the care of their parents or no longer able to live in the care of their parents. These guidelines, in line with the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, will support better delivery and monitoring of alternative care in Lao PDR.

## X. Children with Disabilities

34. Following the adoption of Decree No. 137 on Persons with Disabilities, the National Committee for People with Disabilities and Elderly was established with a Secretariat to coordinate with relevant sectors in developing national disability policies, strategies, programs and action plans. The Lao national policy on disability as well as its strategy and action plan are currently under development.

35. In 2016–2017, approximately 42 families with children with disabilities and 9 schools were assisted as follows:

- in Vientiane province, funding for poultry raising for 15 families and 3 schools;
- in Oudomsay province, funding for poultry raising for 12 families and 3 schools;
- in Luangphrabang province, funding for a cow, goat, and pig for 5 families and 1 school;
- in Savannakhet province, funding for a cow, goat, and pig for 5 families and 1 school; and
- in Champasak province, funding for a cow, goat, and pig for 5 families and 1 school.

36. The Lao Disabled People's Organization (LDPO) is an umbrella organization for disabled people's organizations (DPO). DPOs working with children include the Lao Association of the Blind, the Lao Autism Association, and the Lao Association of the Deaf. The Intellectual Disability Unit provides sport, recreational and educational opportunities to a small number of intellectually disabled children and young people in the Vientiane Capital. The Ban San Souk School is a specialist center for children with cerebral palsy in Vientiane Capital. Local staff provide a limited number of students with daily care, support and therapy.

37. Article 21 of the Decree on Persons with Disabilities on inclusive education mandates that persons with disabilities have the right to study in all governmental

educational institutions in accordance with their condition and ability. Educational institutions must be equipped with facilities for persons with disabilities such as classrooms and educational premises, curriculum appropriate to level of disabilities, and teaching and learning materials and other necessary items supporting teaching and learning processes for learners with disabilities. Research on the curriculum for persons with disabilities should be promoted to produce instruments for teaching, enhancing the level of teachers of persons with disabilities. Teachers of persons with disabilities should be trained in teaching techniques for persons with disabilities and caring for persons with disabilities.

## XI. Maternal, Infant and Child Health Services

38. In order to tackle the high rates of infant and under-5 mortality, the Ministry of Public Health is focusing on the implementation of a project which aims to improve the reproductive health status and reduce maternal, neonatal and child mortality and morbidity including malnutrition in Lao PDR. The Plan sets out 11 strategic objectives, many of which focus on improving regional access, particularly in hard-to-reach and remote areas.

39. The Plan seeks to increase the use and quality of pregnancy and delivery care, particularly for those living in poor and rural areas and to ensure that all newborns receive high quality neo-natal care. The Plan seeks to ensure that all children in need of care receive quality curative care at all levels, including community. All children under 5 years old should be protected from vaccine preventable diseases through immunization. Nutrition status among mothers, young children and communities should be improved.

40. The Plan also seeks to increase the availability and accessibility of Reproductive Maternal Neonatal children Health (RMNCH) staff including ensuring that all health centers have at least 1 midwife. All services provided for pregnant women and children under 5 should be free of charge to users nationwide. Mobile services are available in remote areas including special activities to promote the health of mothers and children.

41. The National Nutrition Plan of Action (2016–2020) aims to address the underlying causes and basic causes of malnutrition. Some of the strategies for infants and children under the age of 5 years include providing vitamins and micronutrients such as iron, zinc and fluoride, promoting exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life, providing food supplements for children under the age of two years, improving food quality and safety, deworming, promoting immunizations, diarrhea prevention and control, prevention of malaria and dengue fever.

42. Comprehensive community health services are being delivered in an integrated manner to reduce missed opportunities and increase efficiency. The interventions that target community level, such as integrated outreach services and existing community-based interventions such as model health village, village health worker and village health volunteers, are being delivered in an integrated manner along with primary health care. Health promotion is being conducted at the village level through health education and information tools on mother/child health services, nutrition, clean water/environment and model healthy village in order to improve basic health treatment by improving the activities of the village doctor, volunteer village doctor, and the village health care committee.

43. The Ministry of Health is also working to increase access to health services by implementing reforms in the health sector at the central and provincial levels as well as with other relevant sectors and development partners who participate in the health reform process. Vaccination campaigns and special vaccination activities are being conducted in high risk/low coverage areas with the involvement of local authorities and communities through mobile vaccination stations.

## XII. Juvenile Justice

44. Lao PDR has established 22 juvenile courts around the country to adjudicate juvenile cases. There are juvenile courts located in all 17 provinces covering the northern, central and southern regions, and the Vientiane Capital and a juvenile chamber at the

People's Supreme Court. The juvenile courts have judges, assistant judges, and clerks and a dedicated juvenile courtroom has been installed in each province, the regional people's court, and the People's Supreme Court in order to implement the Law on Juvenile Criminal Procedure. A juvenile cases procedure manual and a manual on child offenders, child victims or child witness have been developed. The manuals were disseminated and training was provided to judges of the people's courts, staff of the Office of Supreme Public Prosecutor, Lao Women Union, Lao Youth Union, police officers, Labor and Social Welfare staff and heads of villages. At the same time, documents regarding the elimination of violence against women and children and child rights were disseminated to the officers of the People's Supreme Court.

## XIII. Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (Please see in the attached file on detail report on OPSC)

45. The National Assembly adopted a revised Penal Code in April 2017. The Law is currently undergoing a technical review and has not yet been promulgated. The revised Penal Code incorporates offences of sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography including Employment of child labor (article 176), Crimes of enticing, compelling juveniles to commit offences or harboring juvenile offenders (article 185), Trafficking in persons (article 215), Sexual intercourse with a child (article 250), Forcible sexual intercourse (251), Forcing to prostitution (article 253), Procuring prostitution of another person (article 254), Disseminating child pornography (article 256), Possession of child pornography (article 257), Outrage to decency (article 259), Prostitution (article 260), Child sex tourism (article 262), Forcible marriage or divorce and prevention of marriage or divorce (article 268), and Entering into underage marriage (article 269). Details of these articles can be found in the Lao PDR report on the Follow-up to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC).

46. The Law on Extradition (2012) applies to Lao citizens, foreigners, aliens, and stateless persons residing in or outside of Lao PDR who commit a criminal offence in Lao PDR. Extraditable offences are offences under the laws of Lao PDR and the requesting state. Consideration of requests by other governments regarding extradition under the OPSC would depend on bilateral extradition agreements currently in force and Law on Extradition. Bilateral agreements on extradition have been concluded with Thailand, Cambodia, China, Russia Vietnam and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Extradition requests from other countries would be considered case by case. Dual criminality is a requirement for extradition.

47. The Penal Code (Article 9) states that Lao citizens and foreigners, aliens and stateless persons residing in Lao PDR who commit offences outside the territory of Lao PDR shall be charged with and punished for such offences if they are defined as offences under the Penal Code of Lao PDR. Foreign individuals who commit offences outside the territory of Lao PDR, which infringe on the national interests of Lao PDR or lawful interests of Lao citizens, shall also be charged and punished.

## XIV. Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict (Please see in the attached file on detail report on OPAC)

48. In Lao PDR, there are no migrant, asylum-seeking or refugee children who may have been recruited in armed conflict abroad. In accordance with the Constitution, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Security, ensures the protection and freedom of aliens and apatrides in accordance with the law (Article 50). Asylum may be granted to foreigners who are persecuted for their struggle for freedom, justice, peace and scientific causes (Article 51). For additional information, please refer to the Lao PDR Report on the Follow-up to the Optional Protocol on children in armed conflict.

# Part II

## XV. Updated Information

**(a) New bills or laws, and their respective regulations**

- Law on Media (Amended) — 2016;
- Law on Cyber Crime — 2015;
- Law on Anti Trafficking in Persons — 2015;
- Law on Tourism (amended) — 2013;
- Draft Law on Family Register (amended) — currently before the National Assembly;
- Draft Law on Vaccination and Disease Prevention — to be submitted to the National Assembly in 2018;
- Decision on prohibited list of dangerous jobs for child labor No. 4182/LSW — 2016;
- Decision on light jobs for the child labor of the age between 14 years of age but not lower than 12 years of age;
- Decree on the Committee of organization and functioning of the SOS child assistance shelter, No. 205/PM — 2017;
- Decision on establishing child protection networks, No. 0855/LSW — 2017;
- Decree on Per Diem for the poor and vulnerable students of formal education, No. 385/G — 2017;
- Decree on Entertainment;
- Decree on tourism business;
- Child case procedure manual;
- Child offenders' manual.

**(b) New Institutions or Institutional Reform**

- Pre-education, Department, Ministry of Education and Sports, according to Decree No. 67/PM — 2017;
- Integration of education sector, special education, and ethnic group education;
- Promotion of Judiciary System Department, Ministry of Justice.

**(c) Recently introduced Policies, Programs and Plans of Action**

- National Plan of Action on Anti Trafficking in Persons Phase 2 (2017–2023).

**(d) Recent ratifications of human rights instruments**

- ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children — 2017

# Part III

## XVI. Budget lines regarding children in the fields of education, health, social services and child protection

Table 1
**Budget allocation for educational activities**

| *Budget allocation for educational activities* | *2010/11* | *2011/12* | *2012/13* | *2013/14* | *2014/15* | *2015/16* | *2016/17* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Received budget | 1 730 | 2 009 | 3 302 | 3 942 | 3 714 | 4 023 | 4 037 |
| Percentage compared to governmental expenditure | 13.20% | 13.00% | 14.50% | 15.50% | 14.60% | 15.84% | 13.40% |
| Percentage of budget to pay for education of children compared to total budget of education sector | 73.00% | 73.00% | 73.00% | 73.00% | 73.00% | 73.00% | 73.00% |
| Budget to pay for education of children compared to total budget of education sector | 1 262.90 | 1 466.57 | 2 410.46 | 2 877.66 | 2 711.22 | 2 936.79 | 2 947.01 |

Table 2
**Budget allocation for health activities**

| | *2015* | *2016* | *2017* | *2018* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nutrition | | US$ 2 539 434 | US$ 1 720 000 | US$ 88 500 |
| Maternal and Child Health | 34 683 970 000 Kip | 33 924 106 000 Kip | 84 561 736 810 Kip | |

## XVII. Updated Statistical Data

49. Disaggregated data regarding a. child victims of abuse, including victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, b. investigations into cases of sexual violence and rape and the outcomes of the trials, including penalties for perpetrators and redress and compensation offered to the victims and c. sexual exploitation is not yet being collected. At present, only data on sex and age is being collected. Lao PDR hopes to be able to establish a system to collect disaggregated data in the future.

Table 3
**Statistic Trafficking in persons**

| | *Total* | | *Domestic* | | *China* | | *Thailand* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Year* | *Total* | *Women* | *Total* | *Girl* | *Total* | *Girl* | *Total* | *Girl* |
| 2015 | 87 | 84 | 9 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 78 | 76 |
| 2016 | 65 | 55 | 24 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 31 |
| 2017 | 38 | 38 | 14 | 14 | 3 | 3 | 21 | 21 |
| **Total** | **190** | **177** | **47** | **46** | **3** | **3** | **140** | **128** |

Table 4
**Statistics on court cases on trafficking in persons**

| Year | No. of cases | Accused persons | | Victims younger than 18 years of age | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Women | Total | Girl |
| 2015 | 22 | 41 | 13 | 9 | 8 |
| 2016 | 29 | 53 | 18 | 24 | 24 |
| 2017 | 31 | 55 | 17 | 14 | 14 |

**(d) Children arrested, prosecuted and convicted**

Table 5
**Statistic of Children criminal offender 2015–2017**

Ages 15–17 year old

| No. | Allegation | Total | | Nationality | | | | Ethnic Group | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | lao | | foreigner | | lao | | Hmong | | Khumer | |
| | | Total | Girls | Total | Girls | Total | Girls | Total | Girls | Total | Girls | Total | Girls |
| 1 | Drug | 28 | 2 | 28 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Rape | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Trafficking | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Steal | 32 | 0 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Accidents | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Illegal immigration | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Murder | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Physical attack | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Armament | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | ETC | 89 | 1 | 89 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 89 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Table 6
**Statistic of Children in the Jail 2015–2017**

Ages 15–17 year old

| No. | Allegation | Total | | Nationality | | | | Ethnic Group | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | lao | | foreigner | | lao | | Hmong | | Khumer | |
| | | Total | Girls | Total | Girls | Total | Girls | Total | Girls | Total | Girls | Total | Girls |
| 1 | Drug | 50 | 6 | 50 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Fraudulent | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Rape | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Trafficking | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Steal | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Accidents | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Illegal immigration | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Murder | 7 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Physical attack | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | ETC | 39 | 4 | 39 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 39 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Table 7
**Statistic of Children in detention**

*Ages 15–17 year old*

| | | Total | | Nationality | | | | Ethnic Group | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | lao | | foreigner | | lao | | Hmong | | Khumer | |
| No. | Allegation | Total | Girls | Total | Girls | Total | Girls | Total | Girls | Total | Girls | Total | Girls |
| 1 | Drug | 79 | 2 | 73 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 73 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

## (f) Enrolment and completion rates

Table 8
**Attendance Rate**

| | Pre-school | | Primary Attendance Rate | | Junior Secondary Attendance Rate | | Senior Secondary Attendance Rate | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| 2015 | 43.4 | 43 | 98.8 | 98.3 | 76 | 80.2 | 42.9 | 48.6 |
| 2016 | 49.2 | 48.9 | 98.5 | 99 | 80 | 84.3 | 45.2 | 50.4 |
| 2017 | 52.8 | 52.5 | 98.6 | 98.8 | 80.5 | 85.1 | 49 | 51.4 |

Table 9
**Completion Rate**

| | Primary Completion Rate | | Junior Secondary Completion Rate | | Senior Secondary Completion Rate | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| 2015 | 96.8 | 95.7 | 96.1 | 94.0 | 97.6 | 94.4 |
| 2016 | 97.6 | 96.6 | 94.0 | 92.4 | 98.3 | 95.9 |
| 2017 | 97.2 | 96.5 | 96.0 | 93.9 | | |

## (g) Rate of dropouts and repetitions

Table 10
**Repetition Rate**

| | Primary Repetition Rate | | Junior Secondary Repetition Rate | | Senior Secondary Repetition Rate | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| 2015 | 5.1 | 6.5 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 0.9 |
| 2016 | 4.1 | 5.5 | 0.5 | 1.6 | 0.3 | 1.0 |
| 2017 | 3.4 | 4.8 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 0.9 |

Table 11
**Dropout Rate**

| | Primary Dropout Rate | | Junior Secondary Dropout Rate | | Senior Secondary Dropout Rate | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| 2015 | 4.8 | 5.6 | 6.7 | 8.6 | 4.7 | 5.1 |
| 2016 | 4.5 | 5 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 5.3 | 5.6 |
| 2017 | 4.1 | 4.7 | 8.0 | 8.5 | 5.7 | 5.8 |

| | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Province | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| Vientiane capital | 114 | 64 | 110 | 61 | 58 | 108 |
| Champaasak | 107 | 82 | 107 | 81 | 80 | 96 |
| Xiangkhouang | 103 | 83 | 105 | 81 | 76 | 90 |
| Louangphabang | 108 | 103 | 107 | 93 | 83 | 92 |
| Houaphan | 91 | 66 | 93 | 68 | 68 | 96 |
| Savannakhet | 78 | 67 | 83 | 67 | 68 | 87 |
| Sub-total | 601 | 465 | 605 | 451 | 433 | 569 |
| **Total** | | **1 066** | | **1 056** | | **1 002** |

# XVIII. Children deprived of a family environment

**(a) There are no statistics available on children who have been separated from their parents.**

**(b) There are six shelters in Lao PDR that care for orphans and vulnerable children.**

Table 12
**The amount of orphans and vulnerable children**

| | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Province | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| Vientiane capital | 114 | 64 | 110 | 61 | 58 | 108 |
| Champaasak | 107 | 82 | 107 | 81 | 80 | 96 |
| Xiangkhouang | 103 | 83 | 105 | 81 | 76 | 90 |
| Louangphabang | 108 | 103 | 107 | 93 | 83 | 92 |
| Houaphan | 91 | 66 | 93 | 68 | 68 | 96 |
| Savannakhet | 78 | 67 | 83 | 67 | 68 | 87 |
| Sub-total | 601 | 465 | 605 | 451 | 433 | 569 |
| **Total** | | **1 066** | | **1 056** | | **1 002** |

**(c) There are currently no statistics or data on children placed with foster families.**

**(d) Adoptions**

There is currently no disaggregated data on adoptions. Lao PDR will begin collecting disaggregated data on adoptions in 2018.

Table 13
**The amount of adoptions**

| | 2016 | 2017 |
|---|---|---|
| Domestic | 295 | 491 |
| International | 1 (female) | 7 (3 female, 4 male) |

# XIX. Children with Disabilities

50. The National Commission for the Disabled and Elderly has limited funding and expertise to collect data and statistics on persons with disabilities. Data and statistics on

children with disabilities has been collected by the Ministry of Planning and Investment through the National Statistics Bureau during the 2015 Population and Housing Census.

Table 14
**Statistic of children with disabilities**

| *Sex and age* | *Total Population between 5–19 years of age* | *Type of Difficulty* | | | | | | *Population 5 with total disability* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Seeing* | *Hearing* | *Walking* | *Remembering* | *Self-caring* | *Communicating* | |
| Female | | | | | | | | |
| 5–19 years of age | 1 034 059 | 1 349 | 1 957 | 2 550 | 3 138 | 3 606 | 3 637 | 7 161 |
| Male | | | | | | | | |
| 5–19 years of age | 1 062 766 | 1 718 | 2 379 | 3 200 | 3 713 | 4 314 | 4 380 | 8 977 |
| **Total** | **2 096 825** | **3 067** | **4 336** | **5 750** | **6 851** | **7 920** | **8 017** | **16 138** |

## XX. Updated Data Collection

51. In 2017, the Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS II) was carried out in all 18 provinces of the country. The LSIS II is a nation-wide household-based survey that generated data at the provincial level, disaggregated by age, residence, sex, wealth quintile and ethnic group on select social development indicators to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals and provide data for the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan. The LSIS II will update information on social development indicators collected during the 2011-2012 LSIS. The results from this survey are expected in July 2018.